

As indicated in section 423.265(b) of the Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit regulation, Part D bids must be submitted to CMS by the first Monday in June. However, CMS has indicated that this bid deadline will be automatically waived on behalf of newly forming/potential PACE organizations that are not operational by the June deadline.

To the extent a PACE organization with an effective program agreement identifies the need for a waiver of this deadline, the organization will be required to submit a Part D waiver request to CMS. We have learned that many organizations are interested in this waiver. In an effort to streamline the process, CMS has developed a Part D waiver request form that may be completed by these organizations and forwarded to CMS. This form is attached to this notice. We note that in order to facilitate the CMS bid review process, we are limiting the extension of the bid submission deadline to July 1, 2005. We recommend submission of the attached form no later than May 6, 2005.

Any questions regarding this notice or the attached form should be directed to Brenda Hudson at:

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